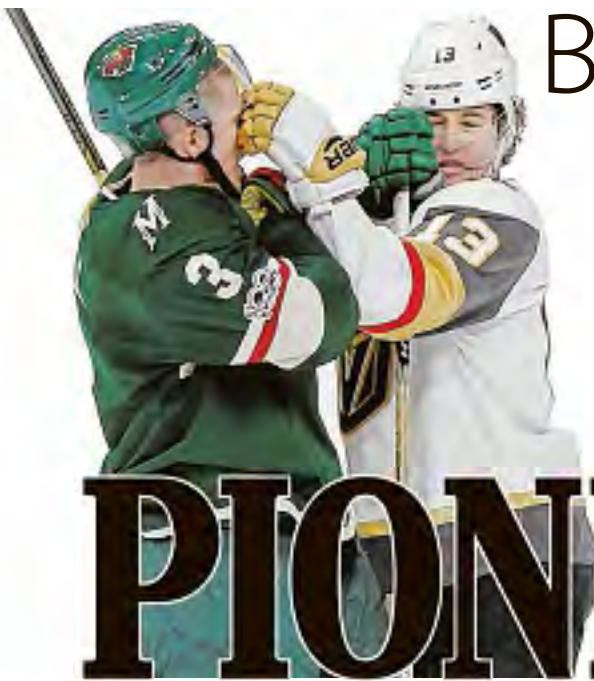




Beating Vegas

Wild take down NHL's red-hot expansion team

SPORTS, 1B

Jim Nabors, 'Gomer Pyle' with the voice of an opera star, dies at 87

PAGE 7A

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> CLASSIFIED, PAGES 10-11C

★ DECEMBER 1, 2017

Army vet latest to accuse Franken

Woman says senator touched her inappropriately in 2003 photo op

By Dave Orrick
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Another woman is accusing Sen. Al Franken of groping, telling CNN that he touched her breast while the two were photographed during a 2003 USO tour in Kuwait.

The woman, a 41-year-old Army veteran from Ohio, was stationed in the Middle East during the Iraq War when the photo was taken, accord-

ing to CNN.

"When he put his arm around me, he groped my right breast. He kept his hand all the way over on my breast," Stephanie Kemplin told the network. "I've never had a man put their arm around me and then cup my breast. So he was holding my breast on the side."

A spokesperson for Franken issued the following statement Thursday morning: "As Senator

Franken made clear this week, he takes thousands of photos and has met tens of thousands of people and he has never intentionally engaged in this kind of conduct. He remains fully committed to cooperating with the ethics investigation."

The Senate Ethics Committee announced on Thursday that it had opened a preliminary investigation into the allegations against Franken, who has apologized and said he

welcomes the probe.

Kemplin told CNN that Franken's hand remained on her breast for five to 10 seconds, as she remained frozen, not fully processing what was happening. No photo exists of those moments.

Eventually, she turned her body in such a way that Franken's hand was touching her back and side — a position shown in a photo she provided.

Kemplin is the fifth woman to

FRANKEN ACCUSATIONS, 9A



The Army veteran who accused Sen. Al Franken of inappropriately touching her is the fifth woman to accuse him of sexual misconduct.

INSIDE

• **Page 9A:** Fellow Michigan Democratic congressman calls for John Conyers to resign amid sexual harassment claims.

• **Page 9A:** Fired "Today" host Matt Lauer apologizes for sexual misconduct, but questions linger for NBC.

The Keillor matter: backlash, fallout



STEPHANIE ZOLLSHAN / BERKSHIRE EAGLE VIA ASSOCIATED PRESS

Maggie Brenner and Tom Washbon, who traveled about 140 miles from Morris, N.Y., leave the Colonial Theatre in Pittsfield, Mass., on Wednesday night after learning that a performance featuring Garrison Keillor had been canceled.

3 women who worked with Keillor defend his professional demeanor

By Mary Ann Grossmann
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Two women who worked with Garrison Keillor for years have come to the defense of the fired "A Prairie Home Companion" creator and host, as has a co-founder of Loft Literary Center.

"In my opinion, I think (Keillor) is being treated shabbily," said author Patricia Hampl, one of Keillor's oldest friends.

The Pioneer Press contacted many Keillor colleagues; most calls went unanswered or the sources declined comment.

Hampl, an award-winning mem-

oirist, poet and essayist, is a University of Minnesota Regents Professor and McKnight Distinguished Professor. She has known Keillor since they worked together on the university's literary magazine.

"I've known Garrison for 50 years," Hampl wrote Wednesday

in an email. "We met in the workplace where he was my boss in an era when all women were 'girls,' but that was never his way. I was encouraged, given every opportunity, taken seriously, and treated as a colleague, as a friend. He was

KEILLOR ACCUSATIONS, 9A

DVS racing to clear immense backlog

In memo, supervisor calls for staff to work fast, accept error risk

By Dave Orrick
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The backlog of vehicle titles and registrations in Minnesota's new computer system has gotten so big that a supervisor recently instructed staff to focus on speed and "accept the additional risk of errors in our work."

An internal memo obtained by the Pioneer Press also described bureaucratic work for more expensive vehicles as "more critical" than the same tasks for lower-priced ones.

The directives raise further questions about how troubles with the computer system, known as MNLARS, will affect hundreds of thousands of vehicle transactions, at least some portion of which are

DVS BACKUP, 4A

How to lure Super Bowl fans: St. Paul has a list

By Frederick Melo
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Even if you don't have a ticket for the big game, the Bold North will welcome you to St. Paul.

St. Paul may not host a humongous ice castle this winter — as many originally hoped — but plans for a giant snow slide at CHS Field are still solid. And the St. Paul Winter Carnival will be extended a week for a total of 17 days of fun.

In fact, the number of St. Paul-based festivities surrounding Super Bowl LII in February keeps growing.

On Thursday, St. Paul Mayor Chris Coleman joined officials from Visit St. Paul, the city's tourism partner, to unveil a list of Super Bowl- and Winter Carnival-related events intended to delight the locals and out-of-towners coming to the game.

SUPER BOWL EVENTS, 6A

Minnesota county attorneys plan lawsuits over opioid crisis

Drug manufacturers, distributors accused of chasing profits

By Christopher Magan
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Minnesota county attorneys from across the state plan to sue opioid manufacturers and distributors for allegedly using marketing tactics akin to the tobacco industry to flood communities with addictive and deadly narcotics.

At a news conference Thursday, Washington County Attorney Pete Orput said he feared late-night phone calls because so often it's law enforcement contacting him about "another dead kid" who overdosed.

"We've had enough of the fraudulent marketing and negligent distribution of opioids," Orput said. "All of us have been struggling with the devastating affect they've had on our communities. All of this has been done in the name of outrageous profits."

Last year, 395 Minnesotans died

OPIOIDS LAWSUIT, 6A

Dow reaches new heights



MARY ALTAFFER / ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Dow Jones industrial average rose past the 24,000 mark for the first time Thursday, thanks in large part to investors' enthusiasm over a strong global economy, solid corporate earnings and the possibility that Washington will deliver lower taxes on corporations. **Story, Page 6A**

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